

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SOMETHING IS RIGHT WITH
AMERICA—IN COLUMBIA, TN

HON. ED BRYANT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 1996

Mr. BRYANT of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, we hear on every side today, loud and clear, about what is wrong with America. All too often the good that is being done never makes the news. May I tell you about the work being done by American Legion Post 19, Auxiliary Unit 19, the 40 & 8 and La Femmes in Columbia, TN?

Post 19, organized in the county on August 15, 1919, with 61 charter members, rose to a high of 1,270 members, and now stands at a membership of 933. From the very earliest days, this organization has been a driving force for good in the community. Men who served their country nobly in time of war returned home to assume leadership roles in the community.

Auxiliary Unit 19 was organized a year later, and membership stands now at 249. The oldest member is an active 94-year-old gold star mother, who lost a son in World War II, to a junior member, 2 years of age.

The 40 & 8 and La Femmes are also active. Let me begin with them. Five nursing scholarships, of \$500.00 each, are given annually by this group. And during the past 2 years, a female veteran has been supported in nursing school in the amount of \$3,000.00. The 40 & 8 engine is a familiar sight at all parades and fund raisers in this and adjoining counties. Many young children know how this organization got its name, if they know little else about American history. The veterans recycle aluminum cans to supplement their scholarship fund, which also helps the ecology by keeping the cans out of the landfill.

The American Legion may be best known in the community for their sponsorship of American Legion baseball. They support many teams annually, and this past year the Columbia team went all the way to the national finals. Boys in the program learn about sportsmanship, which helps them get along with people as they go forward with their lives.

Boy's State is also an important contribution to the Legion. Thirteen boys are sent by the Post to Boy's State where they learn about how our Government works. Many have gone on to become leaders in government as well as industry.

The Legion sponsors an oratorical contest annually, which is wonderful training for youngsters. And Post 19 hosted the State contest, after which members of Auxiliary Unit 19 provided a complementary lunch for those attending, many who had come from a great distance.

Scouting is also sponsored by Post 19, and many young men have gone on to become Eagle Scouts under the leadership of members of the post.

The post cares for veterans who are ill, or have fallen on hard times, and when veterans,

whether or not members of the post, pass from this Earth and their families request it, provide military honors at their burial. There have been as many as four such funerals on a day, and the annual number is between 80 and 100, sad to say, the number is increasing as World War II veterans grow older.

Many, if not all, worthwhile charities find a sympathetic ear and a generous purse at Post 19. Their spacious meeting hall is used by many organizations. The Red Cross Bloodmobile is at the site monthly, and a recent fundraiser for the American Cancer Society was held there.

Post 19 is greatly enhanced by Auxiliary Unit 19. Many local, State, and national causes receive their wholehearted support. Americanism is promoted, especially in the schools. Essay contests are held and hundreds of classroom flags given each year. On Memorial Day, more than 1,000 flags are placed on graves of veterans.

Realizing the importance of education, Unit 19 gives an annual scholarship in the amount of \$500. Many of the recipients would not have been able to further their education without this assistance, as would those who received the nursing scholarships. Members of the unit visit the elementary schools and read to the children. A gun safety program is being taught to elementary school students. Drugs are purchased for children whose parents have no insurance. Essay contests help children learn about their country. Many would otherwise get little instruction in American history. An outstanding Teacher of the Year is recognized by the unit, and a substantial sum is given each year to the Educational Foundation, which uses their funds to provide materials for the classroom not provided by the school system. Fourteen girls are sponsored to Girl's State.

As does the Legion, the auxiliary never turns a deaf ear on those seeking their support. Recently, it was learned that a local child who is suffering from cancer would attend Camp Horizon, if funding was found, and the unit voted unanimously to fund a scholarship in the amount of \$386.00. This is only one example of their generosity.

Child and spousal abuse is a concern of all Americans, and unit 19 has generously supported a local home for battered women.

Monthly visits are made to VA hospitals, and approximately \$2,500 spent on gifts, food, etc., annually. Monthly parties are also held at local nursing homes as well. At least \$1,000.00 is spent locally on charities each year.

Realizing that the fear of crime is a leading concern of all citizens, unit 19 is focusing on crime prevention this year. Citizens are encouraged to form Neighborhood Watch organizations. Crime Prevention Call-In was featured on a local cable television station, under the leadership of the unit.

These are but a few of the good things being done by a group of veterans and their wives, sisters, and daughters. Will you not agree with me that something is right with America in Columbia, TN?

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER WARREN
NEAL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 1996

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I have concluded after years of public service and personal experience that the lifeblood of a stable and effective community is mutual cooperation. Today I am pleased to acknowledge a process of mutual cooperation that has served the Borough of Brooklyn and the community of Canarsie very well. I am referring to the relationship between the Canarsie Volunteer Ambulance Corp. and the work of police officer Warren Neal, community affairs officer of the 69th Precinct which encompasses the Canarsie community.

The Canarsie Volunteer Ambulance Corp. provides free emergency medical care and is funded solely through donations from the Canarsie community. Officer Neal, a professional with 28 years of experience, is being honored by the corporation for his distinguished and dedicated service. Mr. Neal embarked on his law enforcement career in 1968 with the New York City Police Department, assigned to the Times Square area. He was later transferred to Canarsie and served as a patrol officer and was subsequently assigned to be the auxiliary police coordinator. Officer Neal was promoted to Community Affairs Officer for doing an effective job in recruiting and training auxiliary police officers. In that capacity he has represented the precinct at local civic, fraternal, religious and educational events conducted within the Canarsie community. His selfless efforts have endeared him to the numerous Canarsie residents.

Officer Neal is a dedicated family man and has been married to his wife Patricia for 36 years. They have three children, James, Michael, and Suzanne, and five grandchildren.

I am pleased to acknowledge to two community success stories that are mutually linked. The Canarsie Volunteer Ambulance Corp. and its relationship with Officer Warren Neal has been a fruitful relationship that has nothing but positive results. I am pleased to highlight this exceptional example of community cooperation.

PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS TEACHING

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 1996

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge, Linda Lee Hydar, Linda Marie Kralina, and Kathleen M. Vielhaber in recognition of their 1995 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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